

QA-411

J. O. Raisin Double House  
209-211 North Liberty Street  
Centreville  
Private

1878

demolished 1980

This large frame building is one of four double houses constructed by Joseph O. Raisin in 1878. Raisin was quite active in Centreville at this time, and at the time of his death, circa 1885, owned several dozen properties in the town, including a number of simple frame duplexes similar to this structure. Chancery papers filed after his death describe the properties in some detail and list the occupants of each unit.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

J. O. Raisin Double House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

209-211 North Liberty Street

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Queen Anne's

**3 CLASSIFICATION****CATEGORY**☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT**OWNERSHIP**☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS**☐ OCCUPIED☒ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE**☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO**PRESENT USE**☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☒ OTHER: vacant**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

C. Marvin Clark

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21617

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Queen Anne's County Courthouse

Liber #: CWC 141

Folio #: 497

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

QA-411

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		demolished 1980
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Poor		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This large frame double house is located on the west side of North Liberty Street approximately one block north of Broadway. Constructed in 1878 by J. O. Raisin, this building is the southernmost of four double houses constructed in that year by Raisin.

The building is 3 stories high, four bays wide, and one room deep, with a shared center chimney on the pitched gable roof and an original two story kitchen wing to the rear under a cat-slide lean-to roof. A smaller one-story lean-to on the rear was added to accommodate indoor plumbing.

The front facade, facing Liberty Street, clearly reflects the double unit plan. There are doors in the north and south bays on the first floor, with two 6/6 windows in between. Four 6/6 windows are ranged across the second floor and four 3/3 windows across the third floor, directly below the roof eave. The original horizontal weatherboard siding has been covered with asbestos shingle siding. The eaves overhang and are boxed in, with a plain fascia board below the soffit, directly above the third floor windows. A brick

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.1 DESCRIPTION

chimney is centered on the corrugated tin roof, serving both houses.

On the south gable wall of the main building, there is one 6/6 window in the center on all three floors. The gable eaves overhang and are boxed in. Wood shingles are visible under the corrugated metal roof. The south wall of the two story kitchen lean-to is set back from the gable wall of the main section by approximately 1 1/2 feet. There is a door on the first floor and a 6/6 window on the second floor. The north gable facade is identical except there is a 6/6 window in place of the first floor door in the kitchen wing.

A one story lean-to covers much of the rear wall of the kitchen wing. Three four-light windows pierce the rear wall of the small lean-to. To the right, in the south bay of the rear wall of the kitchen wing, there is a 6/6 window on the first floor and a 3/3 window on the second floor. This same fenestration is repeated in the north bay, with the addition of a door to the right of the first floor window. A second brick chimney is centered on the rear wall of the kitchen wing, shared by both kitchens.,

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.2 DESCRIPTION

The interior plan of one side of the building, comprising a single dwelling unit, consists of a single large room in the front section, a kitchen in the rear wing, and a small bathroom in the rear lean-to. The only stair rises against the east wall of the kitchen. This same basic plan is mirrored in the other half of the house. The front chimney served wood or coal heaters, the rear chimney was used for cooking stoves. The front chimney in each room is boxed in and plastered, and is decorated with an Eastlake mantel. One of these mantels has been pulled off the wall. On the back of this mantel is the following inscription in pencil: "J. O. Raisin, Centreville".

There are two rooms in each half of the building on the second floor and one room on the third. Because of the low shed roof on the rear wing, the stair from the second floor to the third is on the west wall of the front room, instead of the east wall of the back room.

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1878

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This double house and the three similar buildings to the north were constructed by (or for) Joseph O. Raisin. The four buildings stand on a lot Raisin purchased from James Smith, a Centreville carpenter and builder, in February 1878.<sup>(1)</sup> A map published the preceding year in the Atlas of Kent and Queen Anne's Counties identifies Smith as the owner and shows that the lot was undeveloped.<sup>(2)</sup> Raisin evidently began construction immediately, as the tax abatement list for 1878 orders that Raisin be charged for the "new houses and Lot on Liberty Street, \$2500".<sup>(3)</sup> The pencil inscription on the back of a mantel in #209 North Liberty makes it clear that Raisin was the builder. The chancery papers filed following Raisin's death about the year 1885 describe all four buildings in some detail, even noting the names of the tenants living in the three occupied houses.<sup>(4)</sup>

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 8.1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The four houses were offered for sale individually by the Trustees, but the bids were rejected as too low, and it was not until 1900 that the property was finally sold. William McKenney and Clayton Wright bought the original lot and all four houses for \$1205.<sup>(5)</sup> Within two weeks, McKenney and Wright sold the property to Jonathon Scotton<sup>(6)</sup> and in the fall of 1903 Scotton sold it to John M. Mason for \$1500.<sup>(7)</sup> In this deed it is noted that the adjoining property to the south is owned by Dr. S. E. Ford and used by William J. Woodford as a livery stable. The building on this adjoining property was demolished in the fall of 1978.

Evidently Mason formed a partnership with Pere T. Forman, for in 1927 the four dwelling houses and other property were involved in a Bankruptcy settlement, and Mason found it necessary to purchase the lots from Trustees charged with settling their affairs.<sup>(8)</sup> Mason died in 1928, and in 1931 his wife sold all four houses and other real estate to Bertha V. France<sup>(9)</sup> who sold it in 1936 to Louise M. Kenton.<sup>(10)</sup> This deed notes that #209 is bounded on the south "by the blacksmith's shop once in the occupancy of Henry

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## B.2 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

R. Louis". In 1972, Louise Kenton executed a deed conveying the property to herself and Gertrude K. Kochli as joint tenants.<sup>(11)</sup> Louise Kenton died in December 1977, and the following fall Gertrude K. Kochli sold the land and four houses to C. Marvin Clark, the present owner.<sup>(12)</sup>



Footnotes

- (1) Deeds, Liber JW 8, folio 291. February 9, 1878.
- (2) Atlas of Kent and Queen Anne's Counties.
- (3) Tax Abatement List for Centreville, 1878, p. 27.
- (4) Chancery Cause No. 823.
- (5) Deeds, Liber JEG 1, folio 345. December 26, 1900.
- (6) Deeds, Liber JEG 1, folio 347. January 9, 1901.
- (7) Deeds, Liber BHT 7, folio 193. October 5, 1903.
- (8) Deeds, Liber BHT 7, folio 197. September 23, 1927.
- (9) Deeds, Liber BHT 13, folio 415. September 24, 1931.
- (10) Deeds, Liber WHC 2A, folio 347. January 18, 1936.
- (11) Deeds, Liber CWC 65, folio 279. June 28, 1972.
- (12) Deeds, Liber CWC 141, folio 497. October 2, 1978.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

QA-411

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Orlando Ridout V, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Queen Anne's County Historical Society

DATE

10/15/80

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland

Field Notebook QA-XIII; Recorded October 23, 1979.

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

TERRITORY SHOWN ON THIS SECTION OF SHEET OUTSIDE OF CORPORATE LIMITS

CENTREVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

QA-411 209-211 N. Liberty St.

JOHNSTOWN (LIBERTY LA)

LIBERTY

CHESTERFIELD AV.

BROADWAY

EPWORTH METHODIST CHURCH

CHESTERFIELD AV. (RAILROAD)

LAWYERS ROW

CARMENT SEWING

4

4

10

12

LENDAL EWAY

AV.





QA-411

J.O. Raisin Double House  
209-11 North Liberty St.  
Centreville, Maryland  
Orlando Ridout V 1979  
View from Southeast



QA-411

J.O. Raisin Double House  
209-211 North Liberty St.  
Centreville, Maryland  
Orlando Ridout V 1979  
View from Southwest





QA-411 J.O. Raisin Double Houses  
Centreville, Maryland  
Orlando Ridout V, 1979  
Rear facade, facing north